

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

Austin, Tex.

April 26, 1947

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE:

I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 20 and I am returning it to the Senate.

I took this action regretfully. It would have been pleasant and satisfying to give this tangible recognition to the devotion to duty and the public service of the District Attorneys of Texas.

My action was not predicated upon lack of merit in the proposal to increase their salaries.

But I am seriously concerned over the prospect that appropriation measures now before the Legislature may throw the entire State Financing Program out of balance.

In my message to the Legislature on January 23, 1947, I referred to the estimate of the State Comptroller of Texas on the money available for appropriation by the 50th Legislature from the General Revenue Fund. The Comptroller estimated that this would be \$189,127,807.00.

The Comptroller estimated further that the present rate of expenditure was \$88,230,000.00.

This left \$100,897,807.00 available for expenditure in excess of our current budget.

In my message to the Legislature, I recommended expenditures of \$88,140,789.00 over and above the present rate of expenditure. This left an estimated balance of \$12,757,018.00.

It will be seen, therefore, that I recommended a 100% increase in our expenditures for the next biennium.

Included in these recommendations were my proposals for increasing assistance to the aged, dependent children and the needy blind; the modernization and adaptation of Army camps which are being taken over to meet some of our eleemosynary needs; a salary increase for State employees; the expansion of professional education for Negroes; an increase in public school teachers' salaries; appropriations for Veterans' Commission, for agricultural research, for rural library facilities, for higher education and for other

important services and activities of the State. There were unanticipated emergency appropriations which the Legislature agreed with me should be made.

It was my judgment that the expenditure of twice as much money during the next biennium as we have spending during this biennium was a sufficiently adequate increase. It was possible also to show that under the estimates of the State Comptroller of Texas such an increase could be provided within the available revenue.

Subsequently, the Legislature passed the so-called Per Capita Bills to raise teachers' salaries. Under these bills I am advised that there will be an expenditure of approximately \$51,000,000.00 more than the present rate. This is \$31,000,000.00 more than the \$20,000,000.00 increase which I recommended. I would not be so disturbed over this if it were not for two reasons. In the first place, I am convinced that the Per Capita Bills even with their large expenditures of public money will not equalize teachers' salaries in this State and will not prevent certain waste and inefficiency which now characterizes our public school financing program. If the \$51,000,000.00 increase was to be spread bountifully and equally to all classes now taught will do under the standards established, I would be far happier than I am in face of the present prospect that under the Per Capita Bills the teachers in one district can receive an average salary of \$4,249.00 while the teachers in another district receive only \$1,650.00. Even more serious is the fact that the money of the people of Texas is being paid out to school districts on the basis of the number of boys and girls eligible to go to school rather than on the basis of the number who actually attend the schools.

In the second place, this involves the \$31,000,000.00 over and above the \$20,000,000.00 which I recommended for higher salaries for school teachers means inevitably that we must reduce

SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS 26th DAY OF January 1947
At 10 O'CLOCK AM. To 11:15 AM
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or omit other contemplated expenditures if we are to carry out the promise which I made to the people of Texas that, in view of the favorable balances in the General Revenue, I do not favor the imposition of new taxes for next year.

S. R. NO. 20

It is not possible to arrive at completely adequate figures on the total amount of money involved in the appropriation bills already passed by the Legislature or now being considered by you. The rough tabulation which I have made, however, shows that these appropriation measures may conceivably reach the staggering total of \$257,000,000.00. In considering that, we must remember that we are now spending \$88,000,000.00.

I thought that I was being very optimistic when I recommended that we double the present expenditure of \$88,000,000.00, but the measures now passed by the Legislature or under consideration by you will almost treble the present expenditures from the General Revenue.

If I am to be consistent in my recommendations and loyal to my pledge to the people of Texas, I can take no other course at this time than to disapprove many of the appropriations submitted for my consideration.

It is never pleasant to take action contrary to the evidenced will of the Legislature. But just as you have the perfect right and legal duty to pass legislation which you think will be to the best interests of the people of this State, so do I have the obligation and duty to approve or disapprove as my best judgment guides me.

I have no quarrel with the Legislature in this regard, and I make this statement in the best of spirit. My relations with the members of the Legislature have been uniformly cordial and friendly. I look upon you as an earnest, industrious and sincere body of public servants and I trust that you will accept my assurances of sincerity and complete good faith in all actions which I may take.

Respectfully submitted,

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS 26 DAY OF April 1947
AT 4 O'CLOCK AND 30 MINUTES PM

Beauford B. Jester
Governor of Texas

Powell Brown
Secretary of State